

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the *Office Action* dated April 5, 2006 wherein: (1) claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 14-16, 18-20, 22-26, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b); (2) claims 12 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a); and (3) claims 6, 13, 21 and 28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would otherwise be allowable.

Status of the Claims

Claims 3-16 and 18-30 are currently pending.

Claims 12, 13, 27 and 28 are in original form.

Claims 3-11, 14, 15, 18-20, 22-26, 29 and 30 are currently amended.

Claims 1 and 16 are currently cancelled.

Claims 2 and 7 were previously cancelled.

Formal Drawings

Applicants submit concurrently herewith a set of ***Formal Drawings*** substantially corresponding to the informal drawings filed with the application. Applicants respectfully request approval and entry of the ***Formal Drawings***.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 13, 21 and 28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowability of claims 6, 13, 21 and 28.

Applicants have rewritten allowable claims 6 and 21 in independent form and have canceled original independent claims 1 and 16. Applicants have also amended dependent claims 3-5 and 7-15 to depend from independent claim 6 and have amended dependent claims 18-20 and 22-30 to depend from independent claim 21. Therefore, independent claims 6 and 21 are now allowable, as are claims 3-5, 7-15, 18-20 and 22-30 that depend therefrom.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b and 103(a))

Applicants submit that all of the substantive rejections have been rendered moot in view of the claim amendments submitted herein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the present application be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Consideration of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested by Applicants. No new matter is introduced by way of the amendment. It is believed that each ground of rejection raised in the *Office Action* dated April 5, 2006 has been fully addressed. If any fee is due as a result of the filing of this paper, please appropriately charge such fee to Deposit Account Number 50-1515 of Conley Rose, P.C. If a petition for extension of time is necessary in order for this paper to be deemed timely filed, please consider this a petition therefore.

If a telephone conference would facilitate the resolution of any issue or expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: JUNE 30, 2006

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